

CENSUS OF INDIA, 1901.

49

*VOLUME XXII.*

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PART I.  
*REPORT.*

BY  
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IN CHARGE CENSUS OPERATIONS.



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## INTRODUCTION.

The Census under report was the third of its kind taken in His Highness the Nizam's Dominions, synchronously with that taken in the rest of India. This time the first day of March was fixed for censusing the population, though in 1891 the day was the twenty-sixth of February. The reason for the change in the date is given in the following circular of the Census Commissioner for India :—

“ The last decennial Census was taken on the night of Thursday, the 26th February 1891, and it is desirable to adopt for the coming Census a date corresponding, as near as possible, to that date. There will be a full moon on the 5th March 1901. The Census should be taken a few days before the full moon, because the light will then be available in the early part of the night and people will not ordinarily have left their homes to attend the lunar bathing festivals.”

2. This precaution notwithstanding, it was apprehended that the *Oorus* of “ Abdun Nabi Shah ” in the City of Hanamkondah and the *Jatras* of Dharmapuri in Elgandal and Narottam-Pahad in Raichur, both of which fell on the night of the 1st March, would interfere with the arrangements made for the satisfactory final enumeration in the Districts of Warangal, Elgandal and Raichur ; but the difficulties were successfully tided over by the officers of the Districts concerned. They devised effective measures and saw that the accuracy of the statistics was in no way vitiated. But their resourcefulness gave no promise of standing them in good stead in the case of Pakhal, a Taluk in the District of Warangal. There the country is wild and, what is more, infested with wild beasts—a circumstance which, being fraught with danger to life, rendered the counting by night out of the question. A day Census there, therefore, became a necessity, and the enumeration was consequently made on the morning of the 2nd March.

3. The methods adopted and the arrangements made to conduct the operations here, were identical with those that obtained in other parts of India. And except for certain unimportant alterations rendered necessary by the peculiar conditions of the country, even our schedules, forms, circulars and tables, not to say the very Code itself, were the same as those that were used in other Provinces.

4. As soon as I took charge of my office, I began making the necessary preliminary arrangements, such as revising the Village Registers of 1891, ensuring proper house numbering, etc.; and this work took me three months to finish.

5. So far as the territorial units for the Census purposes went, we treated the Urban and the Rural areas alike; only the unit in the



former was called the Ward and that in the latter the Taluq. The only tracts dealt with as "Urban" were the Chadarghaut and the Hyderabad City Municipalities as also the Cities of Hanamkonda, Gulbargah and Aurangabad. The rest of His Highness' Territories was treated as "Rural." The whole of the Dominions was divided into 746 Charges; these again were sub-divided into 6,203 Circles, which in their turn were split up into 57,152 Blocks. Each block, which was the unit of the Census administration, had, on an average, 39.9 houses and was placed under an enumerator, whose duty it was to record, in the several columns of the schedules, information touching the people inhabiting his block. Next in rank, and above the block, came the circle, which contained on an average 8.9 blocks. Each circle was under a supervisor; he was responsible for, and it was he who also tested a large portion of, the work of the enumerators in his circle. Last, and above the circle, came the charge. It was placed under a Superintendent, and on him devolved the task of not only testing personally the work of his subordinates, but also seeing that the operations in his charge were properly conducted. Each charge, which generally coincided with a recognized administrative division, contained on an average 4.4 circles. In the majority of cases, each Taluk in the rural tracts was divided into four charges and put under either a *Tahsildar*, a *Peishkar*, a Record-keeper or a *Girdaver* or Revenue Inspector, the *Tahsildar* being responsible for the work of the whole Taluq. These were called Charge Superintendents.

6. The one feature that distinguished the conduct of the operations in the Urban from that in the Rural areas was that, whereas in the City and the Chadarghaut Municipalities, paid agency had to be employed on the enumeration work, in the rural areas the literate portion of the public willingly came forward and co-operated with the Government officials in the enumeration and the supervision work. And this they did without expecting any remuneration therefor. The Village *Patwaris* too, and the literates among the *Patels*, were pressed into service; and they did their allotted portion of the work with no small credit to themselves and profit to Government.

7. As was the case in the rest of India, and was also the practice at the previous Censuses, the work of enumeration this time too was done in two stages. The first was known as the "Preliminary Enumeration," which gave us only a provisional record of the persons habitually residing in every house. The second was known as the "Final Enumeration"; and it was at this stage that the preliminary record was compared with things as they then presented themselves, corrected where necessary and brought up to date.

8. In the rural areas, the work of the preparation of the preliminary record was taken in hand on the 14th January 1901, answering to 12th Isfandar 1310 Fasli; and except in the Districts of Elgandal and Mahbubnagar, where it took a fortnight more, it was brought to a close by the end of January.

In cities and towns, where the population is generally of a shifting character, the work was commenced on the 5th and finished about the 20th of February. No reckoning, it must be remembered, was made of such visitors as were not likely to be present on the night of the Census; but entries were made of such of the absent members of families as were likely to be present in the house on the Census night. The preliminary record was as correctly prepared as it could be, the correctness being due to the inspection so regularly made and the check so carefully exercised.

9. The Census was taken on the night of the 1st of March. The work then consisted in the itinerant enumerators finding out if the persons mentioned in the schedule were present in their houses and if there were any additions or subtractions to be made in the number of persons shown there. Whatever additions, alterations or removals were then found necessary to be made, were made in red ink.

10. On the 2nd of March, all the enumerators along with their supervisors, met at an appointed place and prepared what are called the "First Totals", which told us the number of houses occupied and the number of males and females each block contained. These totals were then checked by two other enumerators and passed on to the Supervisors in charge of circles. These men, after making the totals for their respective circles, passed them on to the Charge Superintendents, who, in their turn, submitted the totals for their charges, through the *Tahsildar*, to their District Officers. At the headquarters of the Districts, and under the supervision of the officers specially deputed for the Census work, all these totals for charges were added together, and, according to instructions previously given, were telegraphed by the District officers direct to the Census Commissioner at Simla. These District totals were, at the same time, sent by wire to my office for information.

11. The 7th of March was fixed as the last day for the transmission of these totals; and so far as this State was concerned, all the District officers except those of Warangal and Oosmanabad despatched their results by wire on or before the date prescribed. The totals for Warangal and Oosmanabad were wired on the following day. The *Atraf-i-Balda* District, having sent up the results on the 4th March, was the first in the field. Nalgonda telegraphed them on the 5th, while the City of Hyderabad, and the Districts of Lingsugur, Birh, Sirpur-Tandur and Raichur transmitted their results on the 6th. The remaining Districts of Elgandal, Gulbargah, Mahbubnagar, Bidar, Indur, Parbhani, Nander and Aurangabad forwarded their figures on the 7th March.

12. According to the first totals, the population of the Dominions is 11,176,903 and the number of occupied houses 2,275,845; whereas the final results obtained, after passing the first totals through various tests, bring the fact to light that the figures are 11,141,142 in the case of

population and 2,283,447 in that of houses. This means a decrease of 35,761 in the strength of the population and an increase of 7,602 in the number of houses. The difference in the population represents only .32 per cent or 3 in every 1,000 persons. And this is very small indeed, considering that in 1891, the difference between the first totals and the final results for the whole of India was about  $\frac{1}{2}$  per cent or 5 in 1,000 persons.

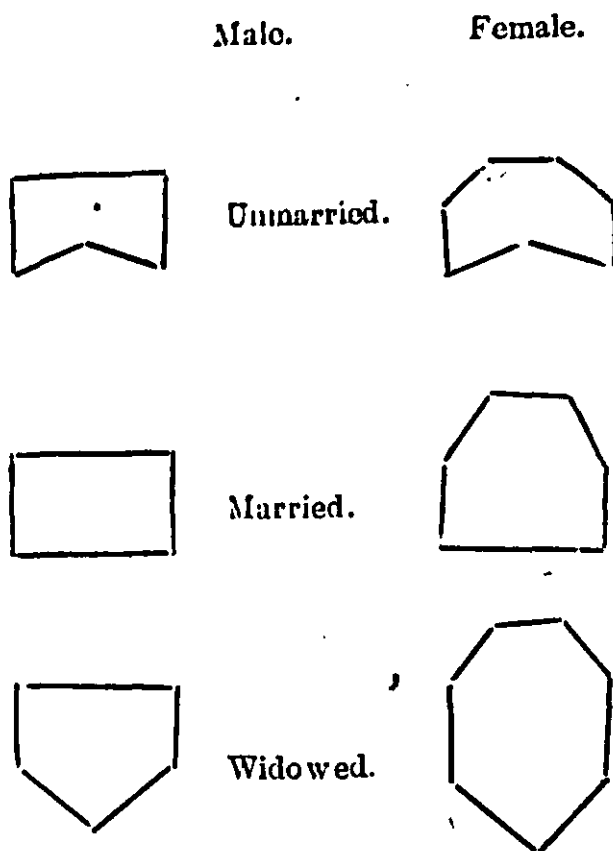
13. The analysis of the District results reveals a noticeable difference in the number of persons found in the Districts of *Atraf-i-Balda* Elgandal, Nalgonda, Warangal, Medak, Bidar, Birh and Gulbargah. In Gulbargah there is a decrease of 37,781 as against an increase of 56,854 in Bidar. This is due to the incorrect inclusion, in the first totals, of the figures of a Jaghir in the Bidar District in those for Gulbargah. And this mistake was rectified only at the time of abstraction. Similar remarks apply also to the figures for Warangal and Nalgonda on the one hand, and *Atraf-i-Balda* and Medak on the other. The increase in Birh is due to the omission of the figures for a Jaghir from the first totals. Speaking generally the difference between the first totals and the final results is due to the wrong use made of the Jaghir totals; and for this the Jaghirdars alone are responsible.

14. I shall now proceed to explain, in order, the several methods adopted to obtain the materials for the construction of the Tables required by the Census Commissioner for India. First and foremost came abstraction, which consisted in abstracting the information required from the schedules on to slips of paper supplied to the abstractors. Next came "sorting", which consisted in arranging the slips in convenient groups so as to readily afford us the information required. Then came tabulation and compilation, which consisted in arranging and compiling this information in the forms prescribed by the Census Commissioner for India. Both the abstraction and the compilation work for the whole of the Dominions were conducted in my office at Hyderabad, and under the supervision of myself and my Assistants.

15. The one novel feature in connection with the Census of 1901 was the substitution of the method of "Abstraction by slips" for that of "Abstraction by strokes or ticks," which had been in vogue ever since the Census came to be taken in India. The slip-method was for the first time introduced in the Bavarian Census of 1871; and the credit of its adoption in India is solely due to Mr. Risley. The tick-method was condemned by prominent statisticians as "a clumsy, untrustworthy and antiquated method of procedure;" whereas the slip-method is credited with being a great improvement upon it. It guarantees accuracy of results and insures economy of time, labour and money."

16. The introduction in India of a modified form of the Bavarian method of abstraction is a novelty; and the skill with which the original

method was modified so as to suit the peculiar wants of India, reflects the highest credit on the adaptive genius of its learned author. Under the Bavarian method, the colour of the slip denoted the sex of the person abstracted; whereas under the modified method it was the shape of the slip that pointed out the sex. And this change has in no small measure contributed towards the expedition with which information relating to religion, sex and civil condition was abstracted from the schedules. At first we were asked to set apart two slips for each person abstracted, though subsequently we were given the option of reducing the number to one. But we stuck to the original proposal and adopted two slips throughout the process of Abstraction.



17. A free hand having been given to us in the selection of the colour and the shape of the slips to denote religion, sex and civil condition, I chose the brown colour to denote Hinduism, the green Islam, the pink Christianity, the blue Jainism, and the white other religions. And instead of cutting the slips into different shapes to denote the sex or the civil conditions, I made the marginally noted diagrams, printed on the slips themselves, do work for us.

18. The use of the two slips had advantages all its own. One slip was set apart for the abstraction of particulars relating to Age, Caste, Literacy, Knowledge of English and Infirmary (cols. 7, 8, 14, 15, and 16 respectively), and the other for Occupation, Birthplace and Language (Cols. 9, 10, 11, 12 and 13 respectively). These were termed A and B slips respectively. The A slips were cut out of coloured papers, each colour denoting a particular religion; whereas the B slips, which contained no record of religion on them, were all made of brown paper with only a diagram printed on them to show the sex of the person abstracted. The one great advantage derived from having two slips instead of one, was that one slip acted as a check on the number of the other, thus ensuring the abstraction of the details of every entry made in the schedules.

19. I wanted all the schedules to be in my office by the 16th of March the latest ; but, for reasons which need not be detailed here, it was the end of the second week of April before I received them from the *Diwani* and the other *Naquas*.

20. The interval thus offered was, however, employed in organizing a large yet competent staff of employees. I began by appointing in the last week of March a small batch of men for abstracting, for the City of Hyderabad, information from schedules recorded in Urdu. And on the 1st of April, we took into service three more batches of men to work at schedules received from the Telugu, the Marathi and the Canarese Districts. The first totals enabled us to have a rough idea of the number of persons inhabiting the Dominions; and the experience gained at the experimental abstraction put in our possession the knowledge of the amount of work a man could do in a day of 7 hours. Armed with these it was easy to arrive at the decision that the employment of 540 Abstractors and 105 Checkers would place us in a position to complete the work of Abstraction and Tabulation in a period of three months. And actually we were able to finish the work of Abstraction and Tabulation by the 1st week of July. The rate of work for a poster was fixed at 550 slips per diem for the first and 650 for the second fortnight of the 1st month. During the second month, it was raised to 800 for A slips and 700 for B; these were again raised to 1,000 and 900 respectively for the third month. And whatever might have been the case at the outset, with a few days' practice the men were able to turn out much more work than was fixed for them; so much so that in some cases men heaped up to their daily credit no less an average than that represented by 1,800 A and 1,500 B slips. The work of abstraction was subjected to a thorough check by a superior class of men, called Checkers, whose rate of work rose from 5,000 in the beginning to 10,000 slips per pair per diem in the final stages of the work.

21. The abstraction over, we took in hand the work of sorting and tabulating the results; and in so doing we took the Taluq as our unit and not the Block as in the case of abstraction. We did so on account of the instruction received upon the subject from the Census Commissioner for India. Said the Imperial Commissioner:

"It has been assumed up to this point that the village will be the unit of tabulation; whether this need be the case appears to depend on the administrative requirements of the various local Governments. If statistics by Villages were required only for Table VI (to which a column for the number of houses might perhaps be added), then after that had been tabulated, the slips might be worked for larger units, such as Thana "or Tahsils."

The establishment for tabulation was not so large as that for abstraction; it was only 480 strong and it took 3½ months to complete the work.

22. Last, though not least, came the work of compilation, which consisted in bringing together under different heads the results so far secured, and marshalling them in forms prescribed by the Government of India. In their Resolution in the Home Department No. 137, dated 3rd August, 1900, that Government prescribed 18 Tables based upon both territorial and administrative requirement for purposes, Imperial and Provincial. The District is taken as the unit of compilation; but Cities find a place devoted all to themselves in both the cases. All the Imperial Tables are bound up in one volume entitled the Volume Imperial.

23. It is impossible to state, with any degree of exactness, what the total cost of the Census of 1901 will be, inasmuch as the work is not yet come to an end. But a rough calculation, based upon the charges already incurred and those which will hereafter be needed, shows that it will not exceed Rs. 2,46,404 as against Rs. 4,24,496 spent over the Census of 1891. It must, however, be observed here that the latter figure includes Rs. 32,680, the amount spent in 1891 by the *Jaghirdars* and *Samasthaniks* themselves on account of the Census enumeration; and should this sum be excluded, as it was not spent by the Government Agency, the actual expenditure will be reduced to Rs. 3,01,816. The expenditure for 1891 and 1901, which may be classified under the three main-heads, (A) Enumeration, (B) Abstraction, Tabulation and Compilation, and (C) Supervision, is detailed below:—

	The Census of 1891.	The Census of 1901.	Difference.
(A). Enumeration ... ..	49,358	47,437	— 1,921
(B). Abstraction, Tabulation and Compilation ... ..	2,37,866	1,26,968	—1,10,898
(C). Supervision ... ..	1,04,592	71,999	— 32,593
Total ...	3,91,816	2,46,404	—1,45,412

24. It will thus be seen that the expenditure in connection with the Census of 1901, is 1,45,412 Rupees less than what it was in the case of 1891 Census. The decrease under the head of "Abstraction and Compilation," is one which invites more than ordinary attention. The "Enumeration" charges of 1891, as pointed out in the preceding para, do not include in them the sum of Rs. 32,680 spent by *Jaghirdars* and others; or the difference under this head would be not Rs. 1,921, but Rs. 34,601.

25. It now remains for us to consider how the expenditure incurred in connection with the several minor details under each main-head compares with that of 1891.

26. *A.—Enumeration.* There is a net saving of Rs. 1,921 under this head. The saving would have been more but for an increase of expenditure under "House-Numbering." If the District and the Municipal Establishments cost Rs. 5,505 less than what they did in 1891, the House-Numbering charges and contingencies increased by Rs. 3,582, showing only a reduction of Rs. 2,880 as shown under sub-head 1. Under sub-head II, there is a small increase of Rs. 959 on account of the enhanced cost of paper and printing. This small increase is due to the introduction of a larger variety of forms, abstracts, etc., this time, than was the case in 1891.

Thus the net result of sub-heads I and II is a decrease in expenditure of Rs. 1,921, compared with the expenditure of 1891.

27. *B.—Abstraction and Compilation.* Under this head, the cost of the Census of 1901 is small indeed compared with that of 1891; and this great decrease in cost is due, first and foremost, to the adoption of the "slip" in lieu of the "tick" system. The net decrease under this head is Rs. 1,10,898, the details of which are as given below:—

	The Census of 1891.	The Census of 1901.	Difference.
(1). Staff for the work of Abstraction and Compilation including Supervision ... ..	1,99,525	1,06,968	— 92,557
(2). Paper for forms and printing ...	38,341	20,000	— 18,341
Total ...	2,37,866	1,26,968	—1,10,898

In 1891, the entire cost of the abstraction staff amounted to Rs. 1,99,525; but this time the work of abstraction, tabulation and supervision cost only Rs. 1,06,968. The abstraction establishment alone cost Rs. 86,742 less than what it did in 1891, while the up-keep of the menials cost less by Rs. 3,086. The saving in office rent amounted to Rs. 595, the "Travelling allowance" and "Contingencies" being responsible for a saving of Rs. 3,737. Against these savings, there should be debited Rs. 1,462, the cost of furniture and Rs. 141, the cost of the maintenance of the Record establishment. This gives a total net saving of Rs. 92,557 as shown above. The cost of paper for abstraction slips, tabulation, working-Registers and compilation sheets has also come down from Rs. 38,341 to Rs. 20,000, showing a saving of

Rs. 18,341. This large saving is due to the fact that the printing of the slips for abstraction, the working-sheets for tabulation and the registers for compilation was done at the Government Central Jail Press, which involved no payment on the part of this office. Thus it is that we find we have saved Rs. 1,10,893 under this head.

28. C.—*Superintendence*. The cost of Superintendence for the Census of 1901 was only Rs. 71,999 as against Rs. 1,04,592 in 1891, showing a saving of Rs. 32,593. The two minor heads under which expenditure was incurred are:—

- (1) the personal charges of the Superintendent,
- (2) the Establishment and office charges.

The expenditure under these heads for the last two Censuses is given below:—

	As per Census of 1891.	As per Census of 1901.	Difference.
(1) Personal charges ...	71,618	48,529	—23,089
(2) Establishment and office charges ...	32,974	23,470	— 9,504
Total ...	1,04,592	71,999	—32,593

The decrease in the personal charges of superintendence was due to the shorter period in which the work was brought to an end this time; whereas the fall in the Establishment charges was due to the fact that the staff employed was smaller than the one entertained in 1891. On the whole the expenditure incurred on the Census of 1901 is Rs. 2,46,404 as against Rs. 3,91,816 expended by Government alone in 1891 or against Rs. 4,24,496, if we include Rs. 32,680 spent by *Jaghir-dars* and *Samasthaniks* on Enumeration. In other words, the expenditure in 1901 is less than 58 per cent of the amount expended in 1891. This gives Rs. 22-2-0 as the cost per 1,000 people censused at the present census, though the cost was Rs. 33-15-5 or 36-13-0 in 1891, according as we exclude from, or include in, the total expenditure, the amount spent by the *Jaghir-dars* and the *Samasthaniks*.

29. In conclusion, it may be pointed out that the aforesaid amounts have all been quoted in Halli Sicca Rupees; and taking Rs. 100 (British Currency) as equivalent in value to H. S. Rs. 125 (for this was the rate of exchange that ruled in the market during the period in which the expenditure was incurred), the total expenditure comes, in British Currency, to Rs. 1,97,123-2-3 as against Rs. 3,13,452-12-9



in 1891. This means that the cost for censusing a population of 1,000 persons was Rs. 17-11-2 in 1901 and Rs. 27-2-8 in 1891; and if we leave out of account the cost of the superintendence and the printing of the report, the cost of enumeration, abstraction and compilation alone comes to H. S. Rs. 14-12-1 or Rs. 11-12-10 (British Currency).